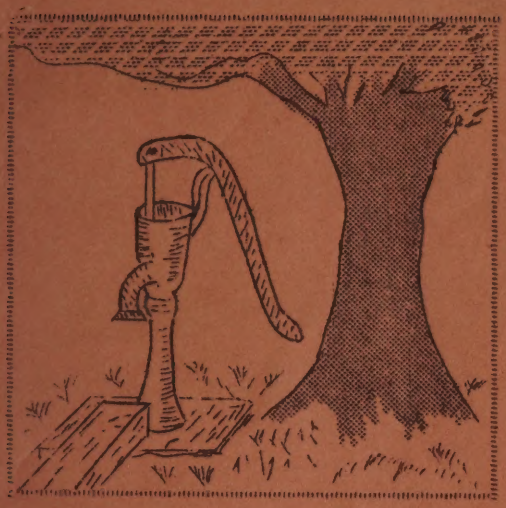


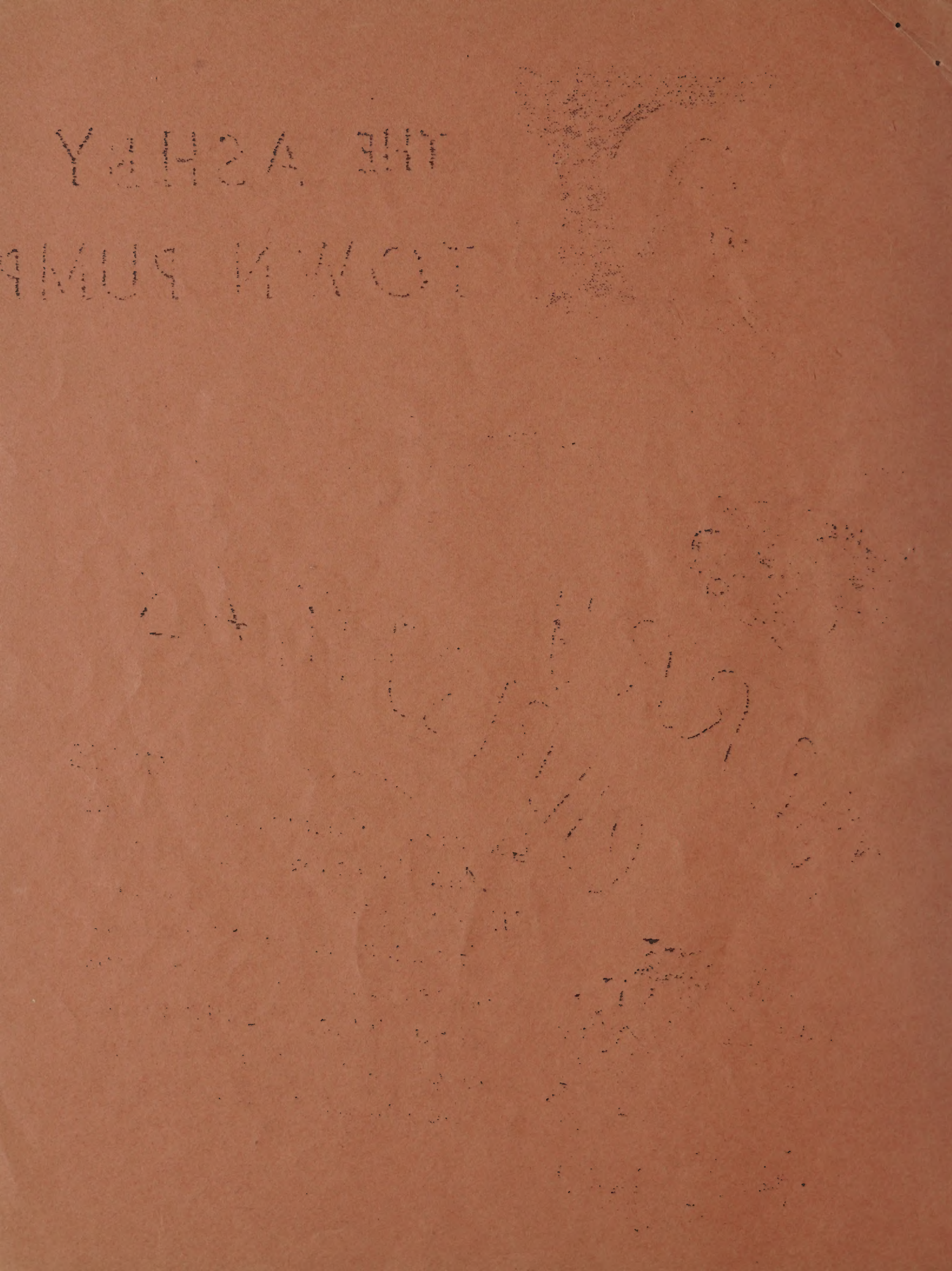
THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP

VOL 1 DECEMBER, 1944 NO. 7

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ACROSS THE MILES

You're in our thoughts at Christmas
And though we are apart
We send you Christmas wishes
From the bottom of our hearts.
For the old familiar handclasps
And all the same old smiles
Are going with this greeting
To you across the miles.



The Town Pump has been dressed up for this issue, hoping that we might bring to you some remembrance of Christmas and the spirit accompanying the holiday season. However, for the great majority of you in the service as well as we at home, Christmas this year brings us no great happiness, but rather a hope, a fervent hope, that next year will bring peace and your return to home.

We are not exactly downhearted we are not cursing what is or what has to be, but frankly we have not the feeling that should greet Christmas and the New Year.

There will be, of course, many signs of Christmas and its traditions. Children are now at their best behavior with high hopes, and wondering if Santa Clause can squeeze down the chimney another year. The Christmas trees are already up on Main St. in Fitchburg, we have recently had our first blanket of snow, and the turkeys are fast disappearing.

Yes, this is Christmas, but our real Christmas will be when you who are East and West, North and South return to Ashby.

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Ashby General Receives Polish Air Decoration

Maj. Gen. Earl E. Partridge Given Wings for Aiding Patriots in Warsaw

Maj. Gen. Earl E. Partridge, son of William Partridge of Ashby, is the first member of the Eighth air force to be given honorary wings of the Polish air force.

Gen. Partridge received this honor after Flying Fortresses of a bombardment division under his command fropped arms and supplies to Polish patriots fighting with the Germans in the streets of Warsaw. He received the decoration from Polish Air-Vice-Marshal Izycki.

He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters and two presidential citations for air force service overseas.

Gen. Partridge is now working with Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle in the European war area, and was serving with Doolittle during the preparations for the invasion of France.

A veteran of the first World War, Gen. Partridge served overseas with the 79th division. He went to West Point in 1920, where he became captain of the First Battalion of cadets. He later entered the army air force at San. Antonio, Tex. Graduation from Kelly field, he was transferred back to West Point for one year as a teacher of aeronautics.

He served in the Canal Zone for four years and returning to this country he received further training at Leavenworth, Kan., and was then appointed as an instructor at Maxwell Field, Ala.

In 1939 Gen. Partridge was commissioned a major and sent to Washington to serve with the combined chiefs of staff.

He received the promotion to colonel in1941; to brigadier general in 1943 and achieved his present rank in June, of this year.

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Lt. Marjorie Bennett A.R.C. is now stationed at Halloran General Hospital at Staten Island, N.Y.

Corp. Harold Jackson, husband of Barbara Bennett Jackson, is with the 3rd army in Luxembourg.

Pvt. Mark Thatcher is confined to the hospital at Camp Blanding, Fla. with minor injuries caused by a richoting tracer bullet.

Pfc. Ivers B. Brooks Jr. of Brockton, grandson of Fred E. Brook has arrived in Belgium with an infantry unit. In the service since April 1943, training at Camp Blanding, Fla., Little Rocj, Ark. and Camp Rucher, Ala. He is married and has a 20-month old daughter. He was stationed in England and France before he went to Belgium and has been overseas since last June. He writes that Belgium is a beautiful country.

Wladimer Tiilikkala has just written home that he was among those in the initial assault wave on Leyte Island. Wladimer wrote that he was plenty scared, but that everyone had a real job to do and didn't have time to think about themselves. His cousin, Eddie Tiilikkala is on the western front, in the front lines in Germany .

Cpl. Ralph Curran A/C has gone to Texas to be reassigned to duty aftera visit home.

Edwin (Sonny) Walker was home the last weekend in October on furlough after having been in England.

Sgt. Russell Forss of the Marine Corps is now at home on furlough from Congaree Field,Columbia,S.C.

Pvt.John Enright Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Enright,is receiving his basic army training at Camp McClellan, Alabama.His brother, Bill Enright S-1/C has been in the hospital in Miami, Florida for over a month.

Harry Allen F-3/C is spending a leave with his wife, Ruth Rackliffe Allen, and a daughter,Judith, at the home of Mrs. Allen's parents Mr. and Mrs. Rackliffe on the Ashby State Road. At the termination of his leave, he will report to San Pedro, Cal. for further assignemnt.

Pfc. Ernest Holmes is back in action in Europe after recovering from wounds. His brother Allan has been spending a leave with his mother. He is stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia.

Lt. Dorothy Bernhardt's unit has taken over a schoolhouse somewhere in France to be used as a hospital,so she no longer has to sleep in a tent.

For the first time since August 31, Walter Hardy's family has heard from him. He is in the Phillipines and sent home some Japanese money. Chester Hardy is still in the Cushing General Hospital,but is steadily improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hayes were most pleasantly surprised when they received a telegram from Luther Jr. who is now on the West Coast. He expects to be back in Ashby in a very short time.

Word has been received that Everett Rackliffe, attached to a Medical Unit, is now at Camp Barcley, Texas.

From the Robbins family we hear that Richard has again arrived safely in the Mediterranean area, and that Ruth is in South Carolina.

Bob Varney of the Merchant Marine is at his home on a furlough. He recently returned from a boat trip to Texas and had the exciting experience of witnessing two tropical hurricanes.

Pvt. Warren Cutting has recently spent a 15-day furlough with his mother, Mrs. Harold Loveland.He is stationed at Camp Monroe,Va.

A new source of food supply has been discovered in New Guinea by Lieut. Waldo Brooks, of Centerville, Maryland, grandson of Mrs. Emma Brooks. On a recent hunting trip, Lt. Brooks was fortunate to shoot two large parrots. Not knowing just what to do with the beautiful birds, the young man was told by the natives that they made delicious eating. So without delay the birds were prepared a la Thanksgiving style and a real feast enjoyed.

This might serve as a food suggestion for people in Ashby who can't get meat to eat without those little red coupons.

We understand that Sgt. Everett S. Treworgy Jr. who at last reports was somewhere in the Pacific war area, was sporting a cute little moustache to add to his already professional appearance.

Pvt. Toivo Lybeck is with the Army somewhere in France.

Cpl. Blair Arsenault of the army air corps has arrived in the European war area.

Richard and Arnold Piper are at their home here during the serious illness of their father, Walter E. Piper. The latest report is that Walter is steadily improving and we have hopes that he will soon be home.

Leon D. Evans, R.T. 2/C has been transferred to Fort Everglades, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. William Evans recently received a letter from Leonard Roberts, a former resident of Ashby. Leonard, now stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, has been having a bad time with an infected foot.

We find Capt. Addison Clark with a New York A.P.O. number, and of course that means a trip overseas. Good luck, Addy.

Leonard Hayes A.A.M. 2/C stationed at the Naval Air Base at Atlanta, Ga. is spending a leave with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hayes.

Mrs. Bertha Elliott has received word that her sons Sgt. Clarence Elliott and Pfc. Wallace Elliott recently met in Belgium. For several weeks they have been within ten minutes walk of each other, but this is the first time they have met. Pfc. Wallace is now in a rest camp. A third brother Warren, is also in the European war theater. Wallace wrote that he and some of his friends, built a log cabin, bought a stove and are managing to keep warm and dry during the rainy nights.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Richard Robbins	Jan. 2
Wallace Elliott	Jan. 4
John Damon	Jan. 12
Lewis Berry, Jr.	Jan. 14
Eino Oya	Jan. 17
Robert Holmes	Jan. 26

OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU

We hope that by now all of you have received your Christmas gift from us, your wallets. There were exactly 100 wallets sent out, approximately 60 brown billfolds for the Army boys, and 40 black ones for the Navy and Marine boys. The cost of these wallets was met by money raised on dances, Finnish socials and individual contributions. Let's hope these billfolds reached you in the same good condition they left us, as we did our best to wrap them properly with waterproof paper. We firmly hope that these wallets, marked ASHBY 1944, will be an adequate remembrance of all her townspeople, and still a useful and appropriate figt.

HONOR ROLL

There has been constructed on the library lawn, an attractive and durable framework that can well be the most outstanding object in town of which we all feel justifiably proud. This frame work, 4½ feet high- 5 feet wide - waterproof painted in white, with very neat black lettering, bears the names - 106 in all - of the boys and girls from Ashby who have been and are in the armed forces serving their country in this world conflict of war. This is our honor roll and is so inscribed. This inscription expresses the true thought of all toward those that have been called upon to make such great sacrifices and who have so nobly accepted their responsibilities.

This honor roll is the result of suggestions from many for an outside one in addition to the one which is on display inside of the library. The suggestions were soon acted upon by our selectmen. "Bonnie" Carroll at the Tavern constructed a most attractive framework of scrolled boarding supported on appropriately designed posts. Eleanor Ballou LaRoche did the equally creditable work of the painting and lettering.

And so, there it stands, the pride of all, and every day appreciation of the co-operation and interest given by our selectmen, "Bennie" and Eleanor will grow in the thoughts of all who see it.

Union Thanksgiving Service

According to the custom of many years, the two churches united for the pre-Thanksgiving service, which was held this year in the Unitarian Church on Nov. 19. Mr. Treworgy preached the sermon and special music was rendered by a quartet: Mrs. Edward Piper, Mr. Roland Simonds, Mr. Carl Jacobson and Mr. Asa Allen.

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On Nov. 14 the Rehabilitation Committee sponsored a speaker, Walter D. McCarthy, from the Fitchburg office of the U.S. Employment service. Mr. McCarthy stressed the difficulties that are bound to confront the returning service man, as well as the benefits he may derive under the recently enacted " G.I. Bill of Rights".

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Ashby Grange will soon close another successful year. Our Spring class of 10 candidates and our Fall class of 14, making a year's total of 24, makes us feel we accomplished something worth while as the greatest majority are young folks who have already begun to have fun and enjoy Grange work.

The Master, Doris Davis, attended the Annual State Grange Convention in Worcester.

We have had election of officers for next year and our overseer Hortense Ekola is taking over the Master's station. There has been an almost complete change of officers and we hope for a prosperous and beneficial New year.

We are about to add another star to our Grange service flag which will make a total of 24, as Frances Evans is reporting for duty with the Waves.

She will be greatly missed as she has always been very generous with her musical talent and ready to entertain us. Good luck, Frances, and a safe return.

The Home and Community Committee for next year anticipates a busy and profitable one, hoping to catch the first prize in the State contest. Last year, we were 8th prize and this year, we took 4th prize, so next year the top. Why not ?

We are entertaining the Pomona Grange with a Christmas party next month. The program will be put on by the High School Glee Club with Mrs. White conducting.

Our Hallowe'en Dance was a success. Costumes were very amusing. Prizes were given for the four best costumes. We had planned an Armistice Eve Dance to entertain service men but they were unable to be present, and as there were other outside activities the same evening, our dance ended in the red, but will try again as our State Master's slogan is-"It can be done."

Ashby Grange is well represented in Pomona Grange as Caroline Wilkinson has been elected Master and Ethel Cox goes in as Overseer. Helen Bailey starts her fifth year as pianist without missing any meeting.

The Sixth war bond drive will soon open and the Lecturer of Ashby Grange is buying a hundred dollar bond from the Lecturer's fund to be placed in the Grange Building fund.

Sixth War Loan Drive

John Mossman is heading the Sixth War Loan Drive which is just getting under way. The quota for Ashby is $ 14,100. and the following list of workers will assist: Arthur Loveland, Herman Greenough, Elmer Mason, Ray Wayrynen, Fred Taylor, Edith Rackliffe, Mrs. Otto Louhi, Ed Forss, Reino Lepisto, Kenneth Crocker, Marilyn Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. John Aronius, Mrs. Luther Hayes, Caroline Wilkinson, David Damon, Myron Harris and Richard Gooley.

There was much excitement in Ashby recently when a small printing press, which is reported to have been recently used in Fitchburg to print counterfeit gasoline coupons was found in the Ashby reservoir.

P. T. A.

First and second grade pupils at Lyman School presented a classroom scene with one of their own group as teacher, at the P.T.A. meeting last Thursday evening. Parents of youngsters were guests at the demonstration. At the business meeting, Mrs. Dorothy Hargraves was elected president, Mrs. Alice Seymour vice president and Mrs. Marion Mossman, secretary. Mrs. Mossman and Mrs. Hargraves were installed by Mrs. Varney, past president.

Miss Virginia Walker, daughter of Mr.& Mrs. Wallace H. Walker, West Main Street, and Albert Dingee, West Main Street, were married in the Calvanist Congregational Church in Fitchburg on October 29 at 8 P.M. by Rev. Lionel Whiston.
They were attended by the bride's parents and sister, Betty. The bride is a graduate of Ashby High School class of 1943. The bridegroom is employed at the Ashby Stock Farm.
A surprise shower was recently giventhe bride at the home of Mrs. Rodney Burnap, West Main Street. Fifty of her neighbors presented her with miscellaneous gifts. Mrs. Burnap, Dorothy Elliott and Mrs. Richard Saari arranged the party. Refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Simelius of Englewood, N.J. have purchased the filling station and chicken farm located on Ashby State Road, a short distance south of Sheldon Bridge, formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frandila.

Ashby Election Returns

A few highlights from our own election returns might be of interest.
President-Dewey 312; Roosevelt *155
Governor-Cahill 292; Tobin * 176
Lt.Gov.-Bradford *327; Carr 127
Senator-Corcoran 100; Saltonstall*346
(* Denotes Elected)

The liquor referendums were again defeated, but it is interesting to note that the package store was defeated by only a 197 to 189 vote -the closest yet.

The tenth annual One-Act-Play Contest was presented at the First Parish Hall by the High School on Friday, November 17, to a capacity audience.
Judges for the occasion were Mrs. Dorothy Lambert, a former teacher, Mr. Andrew J. Karkas, principal of the Lunenburg High School, and Mr. Charles L. Warner principal of the Westminster Junior High School.
All plays were both very entertaining and well acted, showing the intensive work that had been put into them. The judges chose the Junior Play " Ghost Town" coached by Mrs. Elsie Guyer as the first prize winner. Second prize was won by the Sophomores with " The Prettiest Girl in Town" coached by Miss Marie Bouley. The Seniors, directed by Mr. Waino Pernaa, presented "The Dummy" won third prize , and the Freshmen, coached by Miss Dorothy Hughes, presented "The Dearest Thing in Boots" took fourth prize.

The basketball teams got under way on Nov. 21 by playing the Alumni, and have a 17-game schedule lined up. Playing in the Western division of the Wachusett League they will compete against Lunenburg, Townsend, Princeton, Templeton and Westminster. Other games will be played with Troy, N.H., Milford, N.H., and the Fitchburg Squad B.

A.H.S. - 36 -- ALUMNI - 34

The High School Boys opened their season by nosing out a strong attacking Alumni team. The boys lead throughout but almost lost out in the last quarter when the Alumni began to co-ordinate their play. Playing for the High School were; George Johnson, Wally Hill, Paul Foresman, Billy Tiilikkala, Billy Underhill and Bob Brand.
For the Alumni were Waino and Eino Pernaa, Albert and David Damon, Arnie and Dick Piper, Ray Wilkin-

son, and Dick Gooley.

The High School Girls were coached by Miss Hannant, but were not so fortunate, for after leading 15 to 14 at the half, lost out in the final session, 17 to 27 to the aggressive Alumni girls. The High School Girls were represented by Laura Suokko, Doris Aho, Phylis Aho, Barbara Bailey, Eileen Shattuck, Pauline Goguen, Evelyn Simonds and Dorothy Salinen. The Alumnae were represented by Mary Damon, Martha Rackliffe, Renice Bennett, Eleanor Wright, Bertha Johnson and Frances Evans.

Letters to the Town Pump

It is always a pleasure to receive letters from the boys. Here are three we have received this past month -

From Rene Goguen;

Thank you all for sending me the Town Pump. I have been here in the Camp Maxey Regional Hospital since July and sure did appreciate any news from home and the whereabouts of my old friends and neighbors. Two of your copies chased me all over the country from New York to Texas. I sure was lucky to get them. As for myself, I can't give you much news, because I can't get out of the hospital to make any.

I've been in the mountain country, the swamps of Louisiana, and the deserts of New Mexico, but none can compare with our little town. I bet the boys from Ashby who are overseas will agree with me.

And from Jack Woodruff we received thanks for our newsletter and his Christmas gift. Jack writes;

"When I see that nice fat envelope and where it is from, it sure comes first with me. I am glad you consider me from Ashby even though my folks have moved to Fitchburg. My heart is in Ashby, and it's said your home is where your heart is. I hope to be home sometime in December and see you all then.

We have a swell layout here at Craig Field. We have six-man rooms and have individual bathrooms to each two rooms. The theater, P.X., and busses are all close by. Town is five miles away, but it is like East Jaffry on a Saturday night, except that instead of civilians, population is all G.I.s and officers.

I have just completed another phase of my training, and am now driving a truck to take up my spare time, I hope to be in preflight at Randolph Field, Texas sometime the first of the year."

And from Toivo Lybeck:

"Have received all of the four issues of the Town Pump to date, and although I don't know everybody in Ashby, I find it very interesting, and I thank you very much for it.

Have been in the Army for 32 months now and overseas for 28 months, and haven't seen home once since I left for the induction center at Camp Devens on the cold morning of February 24, 1942.

I am in the Ninth Air Force, "Aviation Engineers" and we have built quite a few bases and landing strips in England and France. I have visited most of the large cities in England and France, including London and Paris."

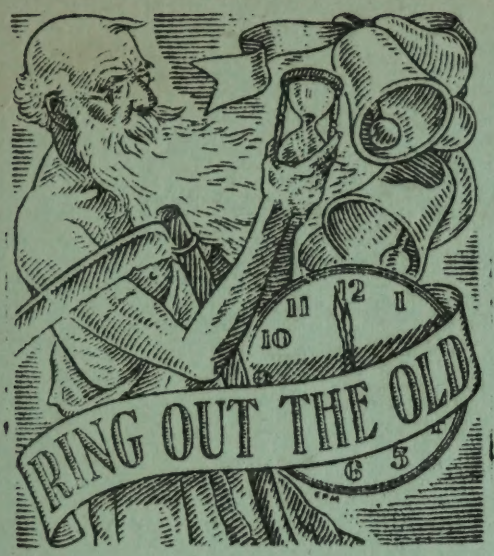
BOYS

May we ask you again to write us in care of the "Town Pump". We want to hear from you- just a line as to where you are, what you are doing and how you are. We find it very hard to get news and so appeal to you.

Please drop us a note !

TOWNSPEOPLE

We also appeal to the relatives and friends of the boys and girls in the service. Should you have any news of the whereabouts or activities of our boys, please call up someone on the editorial or contributing staff. Perhaps you have a letter we could borrow to read and write about. Your contributions are what make the "Town Pump" successful.



RING OUT WILD BELLS

Jennyson

Ring out the old, ring in the new
Ring, happy bells, across the snow
The year is going, let him go -
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

FROM THE TOWN PUMP STAFF:

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Martha Rackliffe
Laina E. Louhi
Helvi E. Soini
Lois E. Lord
Ruth Cheney
Ruth E. Varney
Irene L. Hayes
Fred A. Foresman
Luther H. Hayes
Arthur L. Hasel

Harry & Margaret Leighton
Marilyn Hoffman

Walter R. Piper
Genora Wisenault
Caroline Wilkinson
Marcia W. Foster
Everett S. Treworgy
Bernice W. Wood
Barbara Lyman
Ed. Lyman